

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call votes No. 38 and 39 on the afternoon of January 20, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 38 and Present on Roll Call No. 39.

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule suspending the rules providing legislation be considered in regular order, what is frequently referred to as a "martial law" rule.

I oppose the rule because it is irresponsible and further confirmation of the inability of this President and congressional Republicans' inability to govern.

In accepting his party's presidential nomination, the current President loudly, boldly, and ridiculously declared: "I alone can fix it!"

One year later, on the anniversary of his inauguration, which by the way was witnessed by one of the smallest crowds in history, the verdict is in.

The President cannot fix anything; he is not leading the nation and he has failed at his primary and most basic obligation: managing the executive branch of the government and taking care the laws be faithfully executed.

But the President's failure is not his alone, it is shared with Republican acolytes in the House and Senate, who from Day 1 of this Administration has lived in fantasy world where facts and truth and science and good public policy do not matter.

This President and our Republican friends across the aisle persist in the mistaken and false belief that the American people are clamoring to take away affordable quality healthcare for millions of Americans, to virtually eliminate taxes on the multinational corporations and the top one-percent, to deprive 9 million children of health insurance, and to deport 800,000 law-abiding and patriotic Dreamers from the land they love and only country to which they have ever pledged allegiance.

Mr. Speaker, the reason we are now in this mess of the Republicans' making is because

they consciously chose not to work with Democrats to come to a necessary bipartisan agreement to lift the Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps, giving appropriators the direction they need for full-year funding bills.

The reason given for passing each of the prior Continuing Resolutions was that the extra time was needed to reach a comprehensive agreement to fund government operations in a fair and balanced way.

Yet, even with the extra time, Republicans made no progress during any of the previous extensions.

This should not be surprising; the House GOP is carrying the water for the president, who a few months ago said "we need a big beautiful shutdown."

Mr. Speaker, I will not support a CR that does not include full funding for disaster recovery for the areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and the California wildfires, extends additional health access for veterans, provides funding to combat the opioid epidemic, and protects pensions.

And most important, I will not support a CR or budget agreement that does not address and resolve the crisis the Republican Administration has inflicted on 800,000 Dreamers and their families, including 124,000 Dreamers in my home state of Texas.

Instead of acting responsibly to address these issues and fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, House Republicans continue wasting time.

Mr. Speaker, the CR proposed by Republicans included a six year reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health coverage to nine million children, and which Republicans allowed to lapse on September 30, 2017.

This is not a meaningful extension.

In contrast, making CHIP permanent would not only provide long-term stability for families, providers, and states, it would save \$6 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office.

CHIP, which enjoys broad public, could have been reauthorized months ago in a stand-alone bill but Republicans chose instead waste months on efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and enact unpaid-for tax cuts for the wealthy.

I know firsthand about the important work done through CHIP.

My state is home to the Texas Children's Hospital, and any of my colleagues who believes it is acceptable to play politics with children's health clearly does not appreciate the work done there.

This CR included additional tax cuts totaling over \$26 billion, including a two year delay of the medical device and Cadillac taxes, and a one year delay of the health insurance tax.

At the same time, the CR failed to address numerous other expired and expiring health priorities, from funding for community health centers to waiving caps on therapy services for seniors on Medicare, to preventing cuts to safety net hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, despite controlling the House, Senate, and the White House, Republicans

have not funded the government for the entire year, even though we are already four months into the fiscal year.

Democrats, meanwhile, have done the work with which we were tasked.

I am a member of the Budget committee and we Democrats proposed a budget that:

Respected the needs of all Americans, including those who serve bravely in the Department of Defense;

Honored the sacrifice of our heroes in uniform;

Protected programs like CHIP, made investments in infrastructure and ensured that Americans have access to quality healthcare.

Because the President and congressional Republicans refused to work with Democrats and compromise on how to provide relief from the BCA's sequester level spending caps, they are lurching from CR to CR—degrading the readiness of our military and preventing government agencies from properly serving the American people.

This is not a responsible way to govern.

Republicans need to work across the aisle with Democrats and get our work done—including upholding the long-standing precedent of agreeing to parity when providing relief from sequester caps.

I urge all Members to reject this Rule and start focusing on the real needs and interests of the American people.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUFF'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2018

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pope Huff for his service to the United States and to Mississippi. Lieutenant Colonel Huff will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 25, 2018.

Lieutenant Colonel Huff graduated from Forest County Agricultural High School and is a fellow graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. Huff joined the Marines in 1941, and honorably served our country in that capacity until 1964. He served as a pilot in World War II, the Korean War, and the early stages of the Vietnam War. During his time serving as a Marine, Lieutenant Colonel Huff also had the privilege of being the personal pilot of two Commandants of the Marine Corps, and during his final tour, was the military liaison to the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C. His exceptional record of leadership is unmatched amongst his peers.

Upon his retirement in 1964, Lieutenant Colonel Huff returned to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, with his wife and son, but his service to his country and his state was not finished. From the late-1960s to the mid-1970s, Huff

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